

**Swachh Bharat Mission-Rural Scheme Swachhata Pakhwada Phase-II Programme  
launched**

**Within 3 years every Gram Panchayat and ADC Village to be made ODF Plus: Drinking  
Water & Sanitation Minister**

Every gram panchayat and ADC village in the state will be made ODF plus i.e. solid and liquid waste free within next 3 years. For this reason, it is necessary to create awareness about transparency from public representatives to common people. Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation Sushanta Chowdhury said this while inaugurating the Swachhata Pakhwada phase-two state programme under Swachh Bharat Mission-Rural organized by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation at Agartala Town Hall yesterday. The programme was attended by public representatives of various levels from Zilla Parishad, Panchayat Samiti, Gram Panchayat and Village Committee. It is to be mentioned that Swachhata Pakhwada phase-two programme was launched in 2019. The objective is to take cleanliness to another level in ODF declared areas. For this, along with construction of toilets, public toilets, solid and liquid waste management, construction of kitchen garden, improvement of drainage system, provision of dustbins, Gobardhan scheme have been launched.

Speaking at the programme, Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Sushanta Chowdhury said that this programme will be implemented in 400 each in the first and second year and in the remaining village committees and gram panchayats in the third year. He said, based on transparency and clean environment, ideal villages should be formed in the state. Along with the use of pure drinking water, equal importance should be given to hygiene in building a healthy society. That is why proper management of any type of solid or liquid waste should be taken care. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been emphasizing on cleanliness since 2014. As a result, the country today has been able to achieve great success in many areas of Swachh Bharat Mission. He requested the public representatives and concerned departments to work with more constructive approach in order to make the rural people aware of the proper management of solid and liquid waste. He said that the state has surpassed the national average in providing drinking water connection to every household under Jal Jeevan Mission. But in the future, along with creating water sources, water conservation will have to be given equal importance. He said that public representatives and officials at all levels should work to ensure that not a single eligible beneficiary is left out.

Speaking at the programme, Secretary of Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Kiran Gite said, due to lack of proper waste management and awareness, water bodies, rivers of the state are being polluted by waste water, plastic etc. and the agricultural lands are becoming barren. He drew the attention of all present to look into whether women in self-help groups can be involved in waste management in villages as well as in cities of the state. Chief Engineer Shyamlal Bhowmik also spoke at the programme. In the second phase of the programme, Professor Emeritus Professor Arunabh Majumder of Jadavpur University, Kolkata, Chandi Charan Dey, Coordinator of Resource Center of Ramakrishna Mission Lok Shiksha Parishad, discussed extensively on what needs to be done for the successful implementation of Swachhata Pakhwada Phase-Two in the state. Director of Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Engineer Rajeev Majumdar, gave the welcome speech.